

November 12, 2006



Hello:

I left the Seminole County Public Library System 12 years ago, having worked mostly in the Childrens Department, as well as some reference. Life has been quite eventful since then! I worked at the American Automobile Association Library for 5 years, from 1994-1999. It was a very small, 4-person library with a very large mission: to provide reference service to the approx. 800 associates in the building.

I then travelled "farther afield" literally, landing a job as a Children's Librarian at the Volusia County Library System, DeLand branch. My job was to do storytime; my supervisor and a co-worker taught me how to work with puppets, something that, to this day, holds a special joy for me.

After working there about 2 years, I was able to transfer to the smaller DeBary branch. There, I became a "jack of all trades," doing a weekly story time, the summer library reading program, circulation duties and reference for all patrons.

Finally, in 2004, it was time to say goodbye. Some of you reading this might be at the beginning of your careers, while I'm at the other end. I've worked in one capacity or another in the library world for 24 years. I retired fully only a relatively short while. I now work part time as a receptionist at an apartment complex. Were all those years at the library worth it, you might want to know; do I have any regrets? I can only answer by recalling some of the highlights:

- * At SCPL, making a robot out of cans and silver spray paint, or making a giant paper character called Abiyoyo for a Children's program. I still recall Gwen Burke speaking his "lines" as the children laughed!
- * At the AAA library, assigned to create a 10-minute skit on teamwork, I was portraying one of the cheerleaders featured on "Saturday Night Live." We got a big laugh when we formed our version of a human pyramid! Will Ferrell, eat your heart out!
- * Parading down the main street in DeLand as one of the "Book Cart Drill Team," did we delight the crowds lining the road for the Christmas Parade? Stereotypes went flying out the window when we did our Rockettes-style kicks!
- * Playing a cardboard guitar to canned musical accompaniment during Storytime, and getting a round of hearty applause from the kids and their moms.

Regrets? Like the song says, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Jean

Jean Caldwell

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